

DAVIDSON COUNTY LANDOWNER MAKES STRIDES FOR CONSERVATION

Alan Williams has made strides for conservation on his family farm in the Whites Creek Community. The 144 acre farm includes 74 acres of woodland, and 70 acres of pastureland. Alan's goals for the farm include: timber production, wildlife habitat improvement for the turkey, deer and quail, and adequate grazing for the cattle and horses on the farm. Over time, the streambanks of Tranthom Branch, a tributary to Whites Creek, had been eroded by the cattle and horses having open access to the creek.

For assistance in reaching his goals, Alan turned to the Natural Resources conservation service and the Davidson County Soil Conservation District. Together, a plan was developed that would achieve his goals and improve the soil and water quality on his farm. Several Best Management Practices were required to meet these goals.

First of all, a heavy use area was installed as a feeding pad to reduce mud problems. Stream crossings were established to provide stable areas for equipment and livestock to cross the stream allowing access to other paddocks. An eroding streambank was treated to reduce sedimentation in the creek.

After these projects were completed, fencing was installed on this farm serving two purposes. The first was to exclude livestock from forest land, creeks and sensitive areas. Secondly, the fencing divides the fields for a rotational grazing system. Cost share assistance for these projects was provided by the TN Dept. of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Future plans include a warm season grass planting, perennial food plot, and timber harvest.



